

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **March 25, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 12

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Adoption of a Resolution in Support of Amherst County's River Walk Trail Extension Project**

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached resolution supporting Amherst County's River Walk Trail Extension Project.

SUMMARY: Amherst County has submitted a request to Congressman Bob Goodlatte for the inclusion of the project in the bill reauthorizing TEA-21. (See attached correspondence.) Amherst's project would include the extension of the James River Heritage Trail down river to Six Mile Bridge and a causeway under the Carter Glass Bridge linking Percival's Isle to the Amherst shore. Both the Lynchburg MPO and Campbell County are expected to adopt similar resolutions of support for this project.

PRIOR ACTION(S): None

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

CONTACT(S): Kimball Payne

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution; correspondence to Cong. Goodlatte

REVIEWED BY: lkp

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Amherst County proposes to extend the River Walk Trail, a portion of the James River Heritage Trail, along the James River from the City of Lynchburg to Six Mile Bridge, to construct a bicycle/pedestrian causeway linking Amherst County's Riversedge Park to the existing River Walk Trail in the City of Lynchburg, and to improve Fertilizer Road (State Route 1013) to provide additional access to the trail, and

WHEREAS the proposed extension of the James River Heritage Trail is consistent with the Region 2000 Greenways and Blueways Plan and local plans, and

WHEREAS the further development of the trail will promote tourism in the region, will support redevelopment efforts in downtown Lynchburg, will enhance the transportation network, land use development and natural resource protection of Region 2000 and will provide an outstanding amenity in support of the Commonwealth's Jamestown 2007 Celebration,

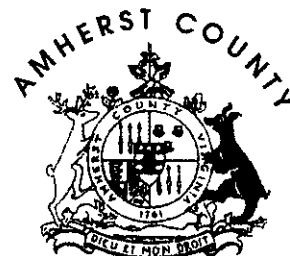
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Lynchburg City Council does hereby express its wholehearted support for the Amherst County River Trail Extension Project and asks that it be included in the pending reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

068L



Office of the
County Administrator

March 12, 2003

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
United States House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: River Walk Trail Extension Project

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

I am honored to submit for your consideration the above-referenced project for inclusion in the pending reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). I have enclosed the following information related to this project:

- Completed Transportation Project Evaluation Criteria Form
- Maps of the project including digital copies
- Letters of support from members of the Virginia General Assembly
- A copy of the Amherst County Riverfront Park Master Plan (March, 2000)

I will be forwarding to you other letters of support as they are received along with a *Resolution* from the Lynchburg Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This *Resolution* of support should be adopted by the MPO at its next meeting on March 20, 2003.

Also, please note that the Project Evaluation Criteria Form has been slightly revised from the version sent by facsimile to your office on March 10, 2003. The form was revised to better reflect recently received information on the project. I apologize if this substitution causes you or your staff any inconvenience.

With regard to the merits of this project, I offer for your consideration the regional significance of the project; the expansion of a known and very popular bike/pedestrian trail that enhances economic, recreational, and transportation opportunities for Amherst County, the City of Lynchburg, Campbell County, and all the other jurisdictions in Region 2000; and, the project's ready to go status. It is important to also note that the project builds upon grant funding received from past Federal Transportation Enhancement programs.

Because of the local and regional benefits of this project, funding through the reauthorization of TEA-21 is critical. The ability for one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of this project to be funded by TEA-21 would insure that its benefits could be realized by Region 2000's citizens and visitors. Otherwise, the likelihood of amassing sufficient local funds to undertake such an investment is unlikely in the near term.

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
March 12, 2003
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Amherst County stands ready to provide you and your staff with whatever assistance you may need to have this project included in the reauthorization of TEA-21. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this project for consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bryan David', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Bryan David
County Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Amherst County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Stephen D. Newman
The Honorable Frank M. Ruff
The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cline

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



STEPHEN D. NEWMAN
23RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
AMHERST AND BEDFORD COUNTIES;
CITIES OF BEDFORD AND LYNCHBURG;
PART OF CAMPBELL COUNTY
POST OFFICE BOX 2209
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501
EMAIL: SNEWMAN@SENATORNEWMAN.COM
(434) 385-1085
(434) 385-1021 FAX

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION

March 11, 2003

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
United States Congressman
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4606

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

I am writing today to express my support for Amherst Counties TEA-21 application. As you may know this project is the culmination of a regional planning effort that has been developed by area stakeholders, including citizens, environmental groups, VDOT, the PDC District 11, and local government.

Amherst County has already dedicated significant resources to the overall project in anticipation of its completion. This project will connect Lynchburg's riverfront downtown area with that of Amherst County's Riverfront Park and bicycle / pedestrian path. Not only will this project help in renovating both localities riverfronts it will provide the region with a much needed economic stimulus. The extended trail will provide opportunities for festivals, increased tourism, and general commercial growth associated with an amenity such as this.

Many groups have worked diligently to make this project a reality for all the citizens of the region. It is my hope that you will be willing to assist them in this final hour. By accepting their TEA-21 application and awarding them the \$2,186,000.00, they will be able to complete this extensive project and provide a model for regional cooperation that fosters increased economic vitality while at the same time helps to preserve our important natural resources and quality of living standard.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in this matter, and with my regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve".

Steve Newman

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



FRANK M. RUFF, JR.

15TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF APPOMATTOX, CHARLOTTE, FLUVANNA,
HALIFAX, MECKLENBURG, AND PRINCE EDWARD
COUNTIES, PART OF AMHERST, BRUNSWICK,
RICHMOND, CUMBERLAND, AND LUNenburg COUNTIES
POST OFFICE BOX 332
CLARKSVILLE, VIRGINIA 23927

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
GENERAL LAWS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

March 7, 2003

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
U. S. House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

It is my pleasure to recommend to you a T-21 proposal that is being offered by Amherst County. As you can see, this is an aggressive proposal that will benefit not only the county, but also the entire Lynchburg regional area.

One of the greatest assets of this region is a delightful stretch of river that the communities have designated as a premiere opportunity to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of the region.

I trust you will carefully evaluate the Amherst County proposal. My belief is that you will find, as I have, that this is a good use for funds under the guidelines of the Transportation Enhancement Program.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'FR' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Frank Ruff



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

L. PRESTON BRYANT, JR.
POST OFFICE BOX 3589
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24503

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
APPROPRIATIONS
COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS
COMMERCE AND LABOR

March 11, 2003

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
United States House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Bob:

I am writing in support of Amherst County's application for a TEA 21 grant to be used in the third phase of the Central Virginia Regional Greenways and Blueways Plan.

Specifically, the County wants to design and extend the current bike/pedestrian trail in Riverfront Park in Amherst County to Six Mile Bridge, as well as renovate an existing building along the river to be used for bicycle livery; design and build a bicycle/hiking causeway linking River's Edge Park to Percival's Island; and upgrade Fertilizer Road/State Route 1013 to allow for emergency vehicles and increased traffic to River's Edge Park.

The result will be a series of interconnected green spaces and corridors. This Regional Greenways and Blueways plan is a long-term preservation plan that will benefit the region, the state, and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. It has been developed to allow the integration of local plans to form a series of linkages that would enhance the transportation network, land use development and natural resource protection of the entire region. In addition to the parks and trails within this rural area, there are many historical, cultural and natural resources.

This plan is being developed through coordination and contact with area local, state, federal and private land planning initiatives, which we believe is necessary in achieving the goals of the Chesapeake Agreement and ensuring that limited state and federal resources are maximized.

The Regional Greenways and Blueways plan has benefited thus far from great cooperation between various local, state and federal agencies, as well as the private sector.

I hope you will give great consideration to this project.

Yours truly,

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

KATHY BYRON
523 LEESVILLE ROAD
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24502
TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

March 11, 2003

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
FINANCE
COMMERCE AND LABOR
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Congressman Bob Goodlatte
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4606

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

I am writing today to express my support for the TEA-21 application submitted by Amherst County. As you may know this project is the culmination of a regional planning effort that has been developed by area stakeholders, including citizens, environmental groups, VDOT, the PDC District 11, and local government.

Amherst County has already dedicated significant resources to the overall project in anticipation of its completion. This project will connect Lynchburg's riverfront downtown area with that of the Amherst County Riverfront Park and bicycle / pedestrian path. Not only will this project help in renovating both localities riverfronts, it will provide the region with a much needed economic stimulus. The extended trail will provide opportunities for festivals, increased tourism, and general commercial growth associated with an amenity such as this.

Many groups have worked diligently to make this project a reality for all the citizens of the region. It is my hope that you will be willing to assist them in this final hour. By accepting their TEA-21 application and awarding them the \$2,186,000.00, they will be able to complete this extensive project and provide a model for regional cooperation that fosters increased economic vitality while at the same time helping to preserve our important natural resources and quality of living standard.

I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Byron", written over a circular stamp.

Kathy J. Byron
Delegate, 22nd District